GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1880
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2005
SEX-TOURISM AND DRUG ABUSE IN PONDICHERRY
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problem of sex- tourism and drug-abuse affecting the people of Pondicherry;

(b) whether the Sex-Tourism takes place in lodges where they are maintaining registers of girls and photographs;

(c) whether the National Commission for Women has analyzed the situation of women of Pondicherry; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government on those recommendations?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH)

(a) No case concerning sex tourism and child abuse has been reported during last two years in Pondicherry.

(b) No such case has been reported in Union Territory of Pondicherry.

(c) Yes, Sir. The National Commission for Women in its Gender Profile titled 'A Situational Analysis of Women and Girls in Pondicherry' has analysed the situation of women in Pondicherry.

(d) The report of National Commission for Women has been received by UT of Pondicherry on 11th January 2005 which is being studied by them for taking appropriate action. However, no incidence regarding sex tourism and child abuse and maintenance of registers of girls and photographs has been reported in the Union Territory of Pondicherry. The Government of Pondicherry gives very high importance to safe guard the rights and interest of women and children in Pondicherry. It has been conveyed by Government of Pondicherry that under no circumstances, sex/drugs will be allowed becoming driving force of the tourism in Pondicherry. In addition, the following action has been taken by Central Government:-

(i) Sexual exploitation of women and children even by tourists is a crime as per Indian Penal Code and Immoral Traffic Prevention Act. State law enforcement agencies therefore take action against anybody involved in such activities. In addition the Tourism Department has constituted a Complaint Cell and has not received any complaint in this matter.

(ii) The Central Advisory Committee on Combating Trafficking of Women and Children under the chairpersonship of Secretary, DWCD has deliberated on the reports of certain voluntary organizations on growing sex tourism in detail and decided to curb the menace through concerted action of all stake holders.

(iii) The Department has instituted in association with UNICEF five on the spot study on the coastal areas of tourist importance to get the information related to sex tourism and paedophiles.

(iv) To make the law enforcement and other agencies aware and sensitized on this specific issue, six regional workshops are proposed in the current year.

(v) Society for Development Research and Training, an organization working in Pondicherry, has been sanctioned a Pilot Project by the Department to combat trafficking of children for commercial sexual exploitation.